

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

DECEMBER 1944

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Monthly Memo

TO: Local Presidents

As Christmas is the festival of the Child, may we remember during every hour of the Christmas season that "all children are our children." There are many unfortunate children in this country, but the story from abroad is far more tragic. Poor nutrition, resulting from the food shortages used as a weapon of war by the Nazis, has brought about a reduction in infants' weight at birth, a serious rise in infant mortality, and a slowing up of growth in school children. Tuberculosis and other diseases have wrought havoc among children of all ages. Edu-

cation has been neglected, but many children have not had the strength to profit by what schooling is available. Thousands are homeless; their parents have died or been separated from them. Some children are confined in concentration camps; others have been working with the Underground—a fine, patriotic service for adults but hardly a wholesome experience for children. These are the children with whom our own children must associate in trying to keep world peace; it matters vitally to us whether or not help is given them now.

A Merry Christmas to each and every one of you is my sincerest wish. For many of us there will be loneliness because of the absence of loved ones—even sadness and sorrow—but we know that those far away want to think of us at home as carrying on the dear old customs in which they can join us in spirit, if not in the flesh, this year. Pray God this will be our last war Christmas.

I cannot give you a tangible Christmas present, but I want to share with you a famous old prayer by St. Francis of Assisi. Perhaps you know it and love it too. If we all tried to live up to this prayer, what a different world we would have!

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace!

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, let me sow pardon.

Where there is doubt, let me sow faith.
Where there is despair, let me sow hope.
Where there is darkness, let me sow light.

Where there is sadness, let me sow joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love,

For

It is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

With all good wishes to you and yours, wherever you may be.

Myrinetta A. Hastings

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

IMPORTANT NEW RADIO SERIES

Would you like to tour the White House kitchen? Or learn how to have a "best-dressed" wardrobe on a limited budget? These are only two of the timely and instructive programs in the new NBC University of the Air radio series, "HOME IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT." The program goes on the air every Saturday, 9:00—9:30 a.m., EWT. NBC Network. This unusual series of broadcasts for the American homemaker is really a complete course in home economics on the air. There will be twenty-eight broadcasts dealing with such vital subjects as health standards, child development, food, clothing, personal and family living—all the complex elements that go to make up successful home life.

A handbook will soon be available for use in connection with the program. It may be secured for 25¢ from International Press, 121 Varick Street, New York 13, N.Y.

NBC offers this series in cooperation with the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and the American Home Economics Association.

DIAL IN ON THE BAXTERS

Saturdays—1:30 p. m., E. W. T.—
over NBC Network

This fall's twenty-seven-week series of Baxter family broadcasts has already been on the air for more than a month. If you haven't done so, why not invite the Baxters into your home next Saturday? See your local newspaper for program listings, station, and time, if you live out of the Eastern War Time zone.

BUY ANOTHER BOND!

The Sixth War Loan Drive is now well under way. It was launched on November 20 and will run through December 16. As in past drives, students in America's schools are helping to put the nation over the top in its effort to raise \$14,000,000,000 to carry on the war. Both students and members of P.T.A.'s are selling bonds in house-to-house canvasses, taking bond pledges, and in some counties actually assuming full responsibility for the drive.





THE *Community* IS CHALLENGED

DIGEST OF CONVENTION SYMPOSIUM

*Presiding: Mrs. Warren L. Mabrey,
former vice-president*

THE child and his place in the community was the subject of a most profitable discussion at the 1944 National Convention. As Mrs. Mabrey explained, the community environment is not so readily controlled as that of the home and the school. The discussion, therefore, dealt mainly with four major problems that confront communities interested in the welfare of all children. It was pointed out that ways and means should be provided to:

- *Combat juvenile delinquency.*
- *Set up recreation programs and facilities.*
- *Provide adequate reading and library service.*
- *Instruct youth in the harmful effects of narcotics and alcoholic beverages.*

An Ounce of Prevention

Mrs. Arch J. West, National chairman of Juvenile Protection, remarked that the National Congress believes that the problem of juvenile delinquency is primarily one of prevention rather than cure. To prevent delinquency we must first of all consider some of the factors contributing to it, such as:

- *Homes left without adequate supervision because of the employment of mothers in essential industry and the absence of fathers in military service.*
- *The shortage of teachers sufficiently well trained to deal with the needs of today's students.*
- *Employed youth whose spending power is not properly guided or controlled.*
- *Communities that provide little or no opportunity for healthy outlets for the energy of their children and youth.*

EARLIER issues of the *National Congress Bulletin* gave you in summary form highlights of the 1944 National Convention program. This month we are bringing you a condensed report of another symposium. The complete text of addresses and detailed reports are published in the 1944 *Proceedings*.

From the standpoint of the community's responsibility, Mrs. West emphasized the necessity of securing the co-operation of Federal, state, and local agencies. The importance of the work of volunteer agencies, as well as of individual volunteers, was also stressed.

Mrs. Rollin Brown, National chairman of Recreation, pointed out that recreation should be considered as an essential human need—something to be enjoyed by every person for its own sake. Programs should be set up and facilities provided for the wholesome recreation not only of youth but also of children and adults.

The P. T. A. Takes the Lead

Weaver W. Pangburn, special field representative of the National Recreation Association, suggested that the P.T.A. should act as prime mover in every community to:

- *Make a careful study of the fundamental standards of public recreation, particularly planned recreation.*
- *Enlist individuals to serve as volunteers at playgrounds and in recreation centers.*
- *Encourage the playground director or recreation-center leader to act as a key individual in public recreation.*
- *Help to train young people to share in the responsibility, the activity, the committee work, and the fun of group and community recreation.*

The Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, and the Camp Fire Girls were represented in the discussion by E. Urner Goodman, Mrs. Ruth C. Osborn, and C. Frances Loomis, all of whom are associated with the national programs of their organizations. They pointed out that children and youth receive four distinct benefits from membership in these voluntary youth-serving agencies: opportunities for constructive group work and play, the influence of wholesome adult companionship and leadership, participation in activities that educate for citizenship, and the practice of the high ideals for which these organizations stand.

Jesse Edna Crampton, executive secretary of the Brooklyn Juvenile Protective Association, asked this question: "What are communities doing to strengthen the individual, to make him the well-adjusted adult every community desires?" She urged that plans for the ideal community in the postwar era include a guidance center to which parents, teachers, recreation workers, and all people who are interested in children, may go for advice about handling the child who does not seem to fit into the scheme of

things. There should also, she pointed out, be a place where persons may go to learn more about the problems of normal children.

Mrs. Harry M. Mulberry, National chairman of Reading and Library Service, advanced three helpful suggestions on what to do with free time:

1. Help children to acquire the reading habit—reading for pleasure and for knowledge.
2. Provide ample quantities of worth-while reading matter.
3. Advocate the full use of present-day library service; i.e., story hours, reading lists, travel games, as well as the books on the library shelves.

Using the Community's Resources

L. Marion Moshier, senior library supervisor in the division of adult education and library extension of the New York State Department of Education, commented on the fact that the importance of the library had been acknowledged by everyone on the discussion panel. She urged that whenever a community program is started, the library be represented. In that way librarians can build up their services to meet the needs of the program and the community.

Winnie Buckels, National chairman of Narcotics Education, quoted Dr. Thomas Parran, U.S. Surgeon General: "The alcohol problem is today the greatest single public health problem that is not being systematically attacked." The narcotics problem must be considered from this viewpoint. The logical way to educate youth on any subject is to create a demand for instruction. But before teachers can impart knowledge of a subject, they must themselves possess that knowledge. Teacher training institutions should, therefore, include credit courses in this particular field. Understanding the problem presented by the use of narcotics is the first step in solving it.

A summation of the discussion suggests that: The community should provide opportunities for children and youth to acquire the kind of knowledge and experience that will fit them to live as useful members of society. These opportunities should include planned programs for things to do and places to go during leisure hours. Such programs are a community problem, and youth-serving agencies, welfare agencies, and individuals should all cooperate to the full in their efforts to provide an ideal place in which their children and youth may live and learn, work and play.

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON OUR NEW TEXT BOOK

Rural Education

ANOTHER historic milestone in an era already noted for the serious thought that has been given to the welfare of children was set up by the recent White House Conference on Rural Education attended by 230 rural experts from forty-three states. Mrs. Clifford F. Thompson, National vice-president, represented the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Like its predecessors this conference was free of government direction and was strictly nonpartisan. Unlike its predecessors, however, it was not financed by government funds or private grants; it was called not by a government agency but by three divisions of the National Education Association; and its scope was limited to a consideration of the education of rural children and youth.

Nation-Wide Problem

The conference stressed again and again the importance of rural education to the welfare of the entire country. Experience has proved that either we provide for the adequate education of our youth or we pay in waste of money and human resources for our neglect to do so. In many cases the community that fails to educate properly is not the community that pays the price for that failure. The illiteracy of thousands of young men called for the armed services means that the whole nation must pay for the past failure of certain communities to educate their youth. And this is true also of the thousands of persons who have moved from one community to another to do war work. Education is no longer a matter of strictly local concern.

• The fact was brought out that the free public schools of our nation began as rural schools. The rapid movement of people into cities has resulted in finer and better schools for city children under a system of local taxation. But the rural schools remain largely unchanged, a mute testimonial to our failure to provide equal educational opportunities for all. To reach this army of neglected rural youth, the group asserted, will require significant increases in the financial support of schools. The National Congress of Parents and Teachers has for years been working toward this goal.

Equal Opportunity for All Youth

Emphasis was placed on the fact that democratic education demands that America's wealth be used to educate America's children no matter where they may live. Equal opportunity for all must become a reality.

Members of the conference agreed that the ultimate aim of both rural and urban education is the same—to assure the fullest possible development of an individual's ability to find satisfying solutions to life's problems. Whenever rural education has failed to achieve this aim, it has been largely because of insufficient funds. To make up this lack, the group believes that the Federal government and the state governments must each assume its fair share of the cost of rural schools.

• *An adequate program of rural education adapted to the educational needs of rural people should be provided not only as their right but also as a means of wisely developing the human resources of the nation for the good of all.*

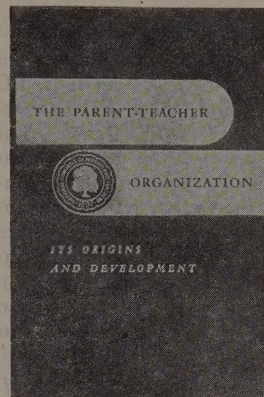
That the schools which 50 per cent of the nation's children attend and in which 52 per cent of the teachers are employed deserve a plan of action, effective and far-reaching, cannot be denied, stated this group of conferees. Nor can it be denied that through laws to put into effect the findings of this White House Conference on Rural Education the program could be set in operation.

A Working Program

The "Charter for Rural Education" drawn up by this conference is worthy of quotation:

"America can develop the finest rural civilization the world has yet seen, in the new era following World War II . . . We have the people, the energy, the innate intelligence, the natural resources, and the wealth. We need a virile education which can inspire and prepare people to attack and solve their own problems.

"We must not tolerate in any rural community or for any individual . . . gross neglect . . . or any manner of paying for education which does not give a fair opportunity to all."



Please don't overlook this book when you buy books for your P.T.A. library or for the principal's office!

It will give all who read it an authentic story of the growth and development of the parent-teacher movement. It makes an ideal gift for a teacher, principal, or school superintendent. Young men and women who are preparing now for the teaching profession will prize it for its valuable source material. The price is \$1.25. Order from the National Office.

Has your P.T.A. subscribed to the *National Parent-Teacher*? Thousands of associations have budgeted a dollar for a subscription for the president. We doubt if any other dollar spent by the association will bring back into the community such a wealth of sound, important, timely, and helpful information. The subscription price is \$1. Make check or money order payable to *National Parent-Teacher* and mail it to 600 S. Michigan Blvd., Chicago 5, Illinois.

An eight-point program is realistically set forth as follows:

"We must have a broad and powerful education in every rural community of America—an education which:

"1. Insures all ages of rural Americans their fair share of education.

"2. Produces vigorous, wholesome, balanced, and steadily growing personalities.

"3. Strives for a community that sustains and nourishes democratic life.

"4. Demands dynamic and highly skilled professional leaders who can deal effectively with problems of rural communities.

"5. Provides adequate rural school buildings and grounds.

"6. Creates satisfactory administrative and attendance units.

"7. Provides an equitable plan of financing rural education.

"8. Unites all the forces of the community in a coordinated effort."

THE *Baxters* ALWAYS FIND A WAY!

EVERY Saturday afternoon from 1:30 to 1:45 E.W.T. over the NBC network, Marge and Bill and their irrepressible offspring—Bud, Janey, and baby Sandy—are waiting to give you fifteen minutes of wholesome entertainment and help you solve a family problem or two at the same time. For this typical American family just seems to generate problems—exactly the way your own children often seem to have some special system for creating two worries where only one existed before!

So far, though, the *Baxters* have always found a way out, whether it's a question of adjusting homework schedules to canteen hours, or of a sixteen-year-old trying to join the WAVES. Marge and Bill don't know all the answers to parental problems, but they are certainly willing to learn—the hard way, if need be.

Bud and Janey are sometimes baffled by the complexities that they see developing day by day in the world about them, and between escapades they try to find the answers to their particular problems just as your own youngsters do.

This is a program for the whole family. If you like to have friends in for a Saturday luncheon or an afternoon chat, organize a listening group. The *Baxters* are sure to give you plenty to talk about, and the editor of the *National Parent-Teacher*, the "Voice of the P.T.A.," will be on hand to bring you a short and pointed summary of the dramatic situation in question.



Mrs. Fern Persons and her young daughter. Mrs. Persons plays the role of Marge in our National Radio Program, *The Baxters*. Mrs. Persons' husband is in the Navy.

Dumbarton Oaks

A number of letters have come to the National Office asking whether the National Congress of Parents and Teachers was interested in the Dumbarton Oaks proposals and whether or not information concerning them will be sent to state chairmen, local presidents, and other parent-teacher workers.

Soon after the Dumbarton Oaks documents were made public our National President visited the State Department with representatives of a number of other organizations. Mr. Edward R. Stettinius and the staff of experts who represented the United States at the conference were present at the meeting. A complete explanation was made of the various proposals, and questions were answered fully and frankly.

The National Congress has been supplied with a sufficient number of copies of the Dumbarton Oaks agreements and an explanation of them to send one to each state president and each state chairman of international relations. Look for further information in your state bulletins and in the *National Congress Bulletin*.

The Congress maintains direct and frequent contact with the State Department as well as with other leading organizations in the field of national and international relations. Watch for further news in the January *Bulletin*.

MAKE IT *Safe* AND MERRY!

For a happier Christmas, avoid accidents! The National Safety Council makes this plea in announcing a nationwide campaign to reduce the huge accident toll that each year makes Christmas a mockery for thousands of families.

Since Pearl Harbor twice as many Americans have died from accidents on the home front as have been killed on all battle fronts. And last December accidents took the lives of 9,150 persons—an all-time high for the year 1943.

"As long as accidents are making a second-place killer out of war," says Ned H. Dearborn, president of the Council, "they are a waste of the power Uncle Sam needs for the knockout blow against the enemy. If we can cut this Christmas toll in half we can make things a little easier for the boys in uniform and bring them back a little sooner. Isn't it worth it?"

The National Congress is one of 130 national organizations cooperating in this holiday safety campaign. Safety chairmen will find that governors, mayors, police chiefs, and other public officials are already taking precautionary measures and will be only too willing to work with the P.T.A. in this common cause.

LISTEN TO THE BAXTERS

Members in the area served by Station WMAQ, Chicago, will hear the broadcast on Saturdays at 12:15 p.m., Central War Time.

IMPERATIVE NEED FOR MEDICAL WACS

As the European phase of the world conflict approaches a climax, the need for WACS increases, particularly for technicians to serve with the medical department in the mental and physical rehabilitation of thousands of young Americans now being returned from battle fronts for hospitalization.

- For almost a half century our organization has been deeply concerned with the American home and its vital place in our democracy. War has broken many American homes and disrupted many others. Only through the complete rehabilitation of returning fathers can we hope to reestablish security for the children of our nation.

- In order to accomplish this aim, the Army urgently requires women skilled as technicians and therapists. WACS who work with the Medical Department of the U.S. Army are engaged in two wars—the everlasting war against pain, suffering, and disease and the war against our aggressors.

- Young women desiring to enter this service must meet the requirements of the Women's Army Corps. In addition, because of the technical nature of the work, applicants must often possess other qualifications, varying according to the work to be done.

- State and local P.T.A.'s should give the Army Service Forces every possible assistance in answering this urgent appeal—an appeal from the long rows of hospital cots upon which lie the men who have fought our battles, who may be ready to fight again if we give them the help they need.

PEACETIME MILITARY TRAINING AND POSTWAR INTERNATIONAL PLANNING

THE January *Bulletin* will contain a full report of the recent meeting of the Board of Managers. In the meantime you may be interested in the Board's professed stand on postwar military training and postwar international planning. For your guidance, we present here a brief summary of the action taken on these two important issues.

Postwar International Planning

To safeguard our children and ourselves from a third World War—one that will undoubtedly bring destruction to our cities and the civilian population—we agree that this nation should join with other peace-loving nations in the creation of an international organization to enforce a just and peaceful settlement of all disputes.

Since in a few years the children of the world will be guiding the destinies of the world, they must have the kind of education that will fit them for this task. Therefore we endorse the establishment of an international organization

To make these endorsements effective each P.T.A. member should take prompt action. Write your ideas to the Division of Public Liaison, Department of State, Washington, D. C., and do so before another United Nations Conference is held—probably early in the new year. And be sure to write your representatives in Congress who will be serving after January 20.

MEDICAL KITS FOR EUROPE'S NEEDY CHILDREN

Medical kits valued at \$87,500, for use in the schools of Yugoslavia, Greece, Belgium, and other countries, have been purchased by the American Junior Red Cross through its National Children's Fund and are scheduled for immediate shipment. Through channels of the Joint Commission of the International Red Cross, it is possible to send these kits both to liberated and to enemy-occupied countries.

Boys and girls in 65 per cent of the elementary and secondary schools of the United States are now enrolled in the American Junior Red Cross. Classroom groups in these schools will be



to promote educational reconstruction and cultural understanding among all nations. Likewise we advocate the development of an international program for the care and protection of all children and youth.

Compulsory Peacetime Military Service

The Board agreed that our country must be defended at all times but that any program of peacetime military training should be investigated and understood by all P.T.A. members. Each local unit should study and discuss the problem thoroughly.

Before we commit our boys to a year's service in the armed forces we must know exactly why they are needed and what kind of training they are given—and decide on the worth-whileness of such a program. We must be familiar with all proposed national legislation on this matter, and—most important of all—we must make our attitudes known to our Congressmen so that they may truly represent our own wishes and opinions.

engaged this school year in packing and sending overseas special educational gift boxes, containing some 10,000,000 needed educational supplies for the children of liberated Europe.

The U.S. Office of Education has recommended to state superintendents of public instruction that the American Junior Red Cross serve as the agency through which pupils shall participate in educational rehabilitation projects. This recommendation, however, will not mean anything unless someone does something about it. Parent-teacher leaders who are interested in the rehabilitation of Europe's suffering children will want to bring these projects and the recommendation of the U.S. Office of Education to the attention of their schools.

FOOD FOR FREEDOM

Food for Freedom is the title of a one-act United Nations play for elementary school children giving a symbolic treatment of the war and of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration's efforts to help heal the wounds of war.

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers cooperated in the writing of this play by appointing Mrs. Henry R. Atkinson of the Washington, D. C., legislation committee to serve as an observer on the advisory committee which assisted Stanley Kauffman in its preparation.

The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration—UNRRA, for short—is a temporary international agency formed by forty-four nations for the purpose of bringing collective aid to the victims of the war.

The presentation of *Food for Freedom* offers an excellent means of enlisting the cooperation of Americans in the rehabilitation of the war-torn world. Those desiring to stage the play may secure copies from the Walter H. Baker Company, 178 Tremont Street, Boston 11, Massachusetts, or 448 South Hill Street, Los Angeles 13, California. The price is twenty-five cents, and there is no royalty for amateur performances.

If you live along the Atlantic Coast from New York to Richmond, you will want to renounce all thoughts of a chicken dinner during the holidays! The War Food Administration tells us that the armed forces are 110,000 pounds short of chicken for our fighters' Christmas feast, so all chickens produced in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia are being purchased for the G.I.'s.

When Victory Comes

A plan to celebrate V-E Day in the nation's schools has been made public by the National Education Association with the backing of the U.S. Office of Education and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. The proposal emphasizes the fact that victory in Europe will be the joint achievement of the 44 Allied Nations, whose school children will observe the occasion simultaneously.

The N.E.A. suggests that the keynote of the victory celebration be the display of a United Nations flag, made by the pupils of each school for this very purpose, along with the Stars and Stripes. Instructions for making the flag and for appropriate ceremonies have been prepared for schools and communities throughout the land.

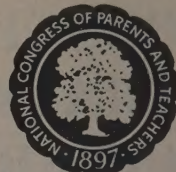
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LET YOUR CHAIRMAN SEE THE BULLETIN!

WHAT OUR CONGRESS PARENT-TEACHER GROUPS *Are Doing*



P.T.A. Succeeds Where Others Fail

The Michigan Congress is proud of its recent achievement in organizing three new parent-teacher associations in Willow Run, a village created by war industry. Its 16,000 citizens represent many cultures and backgrounds, having come from every part of the United States to help build bombers. There had been other previous attempts at community organization, but all had failed.

"Mr. M. B. Rogers, superintendent of the village schools, wholeheartedly welcomed the services of the parent-teacher association," reports Mrs. William M. DeVoe, Michigan's first vice-president, who was assigned to help organize the new P.T.A.'s. "Through the parent-teacher association, these parents of many diverse backgrounds have found a common ground—the welfare of their children—upon which to unite in their work. They are proud of their three newly organized parent-teacher associations and look forward to the year's work with confidence."

Doing Something About Health

A project deserving the special attention of P.T.A. health committees is a nutrition program carried out by the Obion County, Tennessee, Parent-Teacher Council in cooperation with the health and Summer Round-Up and home and family life committees. The program was launched with a survey of twenty schools and twenty-two preschool groups. Schoolteachers selected 1,004 children whom they believed to be suffering from malnutrition. The parents of each child were present at the preliminary physical examination, which was given by the county health clinic and included hemoglobin tests. During the Summer Round-Up, held a little later, 510 additional children were tested.

In 74 per cent of the children examined a nutritional deficiency was found. The foods which most of the children needed more of were lean meats, whole-grain cereals and bread, milk, leafy vegetables, and citrus fruits.

The members of the home and family life committee then went to work on the problem. They called on local merchants, urging them to stock whole-grain

cereals and enriched flour. They also worked through the county farm agent to increase the number of dairy cattle in the county.

Another phase of remedial work was carried on by the teachers in these schools. Each teacher selected one child in her grade for special attention. She interviewed the parents of the child, explained his nutritional deficiencies, and mentioned the foods of which he was in particular need.

As a still further step, classes were organized in which mothers were taught the essential requirements of human diet and the proper use of foods to supply those requirements. The home economics teachers of the county proved of great help in this work with parents.

Enthusiasm began to spread among the mothers! The nutrition classes had brought home to them the seriousness of their children's defects. They went to work having teeth repaired and tonsils removed, and provided improved diets for their children. Parents of those children who had had contact with tuberculosis realized the grave danger of such a situation and started bringing them to the county health clinic to be X-rayed.

Further results? The teachers' records show that the children selected for study and treatment have been gaining weight.

• Future plans? The greater awareness of health and nutrition problems in this community has been so gratifying that the committee plans to extend its activities from the chosen group of fifteen hundred children to a county-wide project of health education in which an adjoining county will also cooperate. The plan calls for a five-months' series of biweekly educational meetings to be held at the county seat. Five people from each school will be in attendance—the principal, home economics teacher, a high school student, the P.T.A. president, and the P.T.A. health chairman. The plan is to initiate, through these key persons, an intensified health program throughout the two counties.

Tell us about your P.T.A. activities and projects. Send material to National Congress Bulletin.

A Local Good Neighbor Project

The Van Meer P.T.A. of Shingleton, Michigan, recently used a soup kettle to clear the atmosphere, so to speak, for organizing a P.T.A. among the many different nationalities in a lumbering community.

"When schools felt the pinch of war, our school was combined with another school," reports Mrs. Fern Berry, "to form a consolidated unit. The other school had a kitchen and facilities for serving hot lunches, but no P.T.A. We tried for two years to organize one. But when the WPA closed their lunch program, we got together and canned vegetables for soup in the school kitchen. We visited as we worked and became acquainted with each other. We also learned to know the teacher and his wife who willingly served the soup to our children from October to May."

After a successful year with the hot lunch project, this group of parents was able to organize a P.T.A. of twenty-five members in the heretofore unorganized neighborhood. One of the first P.T.A. sponsored community gatherings was an entertainment to which people of many nationalities contributed, each in his native tongue. A young Swedish father sang so well he had to respond to encore after encore. Others represented on the program were Finns, French, Poles, and native Kentuckians.

This is a splendid example of how actions speak louder than words in convincing parents of the value of a P.T.A. It may suggest possibilities for other rural associations.

Broadcast from Texas State Convention

A unique feature of the Texas state convention, November 8–9, was a radio broadcast from the convention platform. The program "United We Stand" was one of the weekly series *Reading Is Adventure*, a language arts feature for high school students. "The broadcast furnished all P.T.A. members of the state the opportunity of joining in that part of the convention program," writes Mrs. D. R. Carter, president of the Texas Sixth District, "thus making the largest member participation in the history of congress conventions."

A STATEMENT FROM THE OPA

Members of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will be interested in a recent OPA release. Administrator Chester Bowles, in addressing members of OPA advisory committees, voices a few personal observations about the problems that will confront industry after government controls have been eliminated.

"During the next five years, of all periods in our history," he says, "we will need economic courage, good sense, and a common understanding of the problems that we face.

"The basic answer to our economic future, it seems to me, lies in the maximum hourly production on the part of labor; high wage rates, low unit profits, and the greatest possible volume on the part of industry; the maintenance of high farm income; and the joint realization of all groups that the prosperity of each depends on the prosperity of the others.

"During this difficult war period we have all learned to cooperate and to work together on a constructive give and take basis. We are winning the war today because each group—our soldiers and sailors, our industrial workers, our leaders of enterprise, our farmers, and our government—have worked as part of a team.

"We have had our occasional differences of opinion. But we have never had to argue about where we wanted to go or the speed with which we wished to get there.

"Our economic future, like the winning of the war, rests in our own hands. This challenge is as great as the war itself."

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers lends its support to an economy in which all have a just share. It urges each individual member—whether employer or employee—to do all within his power to see that the job of each group is well done, so that we may have full production and full employment in the postwar years.

FROM OUR LEGISLATION PROGRAM

International Peace

We support legislation that embodies the following principles:

1. Adequate machinery to insure international peace
2. Full participation by the United States in the establishment and maintenance of an organization dedicated to this end

COPY OF A TELEGRAM

FROM THE *War Production Board*

Mrs. William Hastings, President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers
Chicago, Illinois.

As the war increases in intensity on all fronts and supply lines become longer the demand for war materials grows greater. This means we need waste paper in larger quantities for the manufacture of wrapping paper, packaging and containers for shipment of all kinds of supplies overseas. Despite past achievements of schools cooperating with their parent-teacher associations in collection of waste paper, greatly increased effort is needed. I would therefore appreciate your board's asking presidents of all locals to exercise initiative in getting schools to adopt paper trooper program, making pupils junior members of War Production Board's Salvage Organization. The children will thus have an opportunity to contribute actively and importantly to the war effort. At the same time this program enables schools and parent-teacher organizations to raise funds for purchase of equipment or for contributions to war causes. Request National Congress urge all locals to participate actively in waste paper collection campaign.

J. A. Krug, Chairman
War Production Board

THE telegram presented above was considered by the war committee of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers during the recent Board of Managers meeting in Chicago. The committee recommended that local associations encourage schools to adopt the Paper Trooper program. However, before promoting any campaign, the P.T.A. should be sure there is a local outlet for the paper collected. Heretofore, about half the paper salvaged has been wasted because of lack of facilities for moving it to receiving centers. The committee also suggested that P.T.A. members be urged to make the campaign a continuous one, since it will be necessary to salvage wastepaper until after the war with Japan is won.

HERE IS SOME- THING YOU CAN DO TO HELP US!

As you know, there is an acute paper shortage in the country. The government has asked us to help salvage every piece we possibly can, and we are urging our associations and members to cooperate. The National Congress has gladly adhered to every government restriction in the use of paper in publishing its various books and pamphlets, the *Bulletin*, and the *National Parent-Teacher*.

Since September more than 60,000 persons subscribed to the *National Parent-Teacher*. We can take care of the subscription orders, but we have no extra copies to send to the hundreds of Magazine chairmen and members who want to show copies to prospective subscribers, friends, and relatives.

Now here is where you and other local leaders who subscribe to the *National Parent-Teacher* can help us. When you have finished with your own copy, please do not throw it away or store it away in your basement. Put it to immediate use! Give it to a neighbor who has never seen a copy or to a relative who has children. Ask all other members of your association who take the *National Parent-Teacher* to do the same.

In this way you will be helping your government by making maximum use of the paper allotted to us for the Magazine. You will also be helping the parents and children of your community by getting friends and neighbors and the public in general better acquainted with our Magazine.

Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls may be glad to act as messengers in delivering the sample copies from one home to another. Anyone who helps in any way to promote the circulation of the *National Parent-Teacher* is rendering to the parenthood and childhood of America a service worthy of the highest possible commendation. No better or more helpful publication can be placed in the hands of any parent.

A NEW STUDY ON ADOLESCENTS

"Adolescents in Wartime" is the title of the November 1944 issue of the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*—a subject in which every P.T.A. member has a vital interest. This comprehensive 168-page study, prepared by many different experts, covers all phases of the subject. If you wish to order a copy, or to suggest that your library do so, the price is two dollars for the paper-bound edition, two-fifty for the cloth. Order it from the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 3457 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania.

P.T.A. Across the Sea

The love of children that prompted the founding of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and that is well expressed in the 1944 Convention theme, "All Children Are Our Children," knows no national boundaries. It was with keen interest, therefore, that the president of the National Congress welcomed a letter recently received from the daughter of a missionary who is interested in organizing a P.T.A. among a group of natives in South Africa. We were more than glad to supply her with the necessary information and materials.

A Cooperative Project

If you have not already sent for the outline of cooperative projects for the year 1944-45 published by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the National Conference of Christians and Jews, it is not too late to do so. Write to our National Office or to the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York, for a copy of this valuable joint publication.

The pamphlet not only discusses such projects as Brotherhood Week, Religious Book Week, and pertinent *Scholastic Magazine* awards to high school students but makes specific suggestions about what the P.T.A. can do in observing and publicizing these projects. It also includes a complete list of the various regional offices of the N.C.C.J. from which you can secure further helpful information.

ARE YOU SALVAGING PAPER, TIN, AND FAT?

Not Ours

We receive requests from associations that subscribed to the *Parents' Magazine*, thinking they were subscribing to the official magazine of the National Congress. The only official national Magazine of the Congress is the *National Parent-Teacher*. Please notify your members that *Parents' Magazine* has no connection whatever with the National Congress of Parents and Teachers or with the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine*. We cannot offer awards for subscriptions to *Parents' Magazine* any more than we can offer awards for subscriptions to other commercial magazines such as *Good Housekeeping*, *McCalls*, and so on.



THE ANSWERS

Q. Our local unit is starting a P.T.A. bookshelf. Can we get the National Congress books sent to us on approval so that we may select the volumes for which we now have enough cash?

A. Congress publications that come under the classification of "pay" books are not sent on approval. Neither are there discounts or combination offers. All publications of the National Congress are described in the Magazine, the Bulletin, or in descriptive pamphlets sent to state congresses for distribution to locals. Get in touch with your state chairman of Congress publications for complete details.

Q. Where can I find some suggested plans for programs? As local program chairman I want to help each member of my committee who is responsible for a program each month.

A. The Congress pamphlet *Program Planning* and the *Manual*, both obtainable from your state office, are two very helpful sources for any program chairman. In the former you will find more than twenty-five pages of suggestions: programs on the problem of juvenile delinquency, on health, on safety, and so on. Cooperate with the other chairmen of your local association in getting ideas on each particular activity of your unit.

Q. Our programs are planned for general interest. What can we do to provide material for special groups of study?

A. You have part of the answer in your question. Study groups! The *National Parent-Teacher*, official Magazine of the National Congress, offers two study courses each year. These make splendid subjects for group study. Then there is the book *Community Life in a Democracy*, with its study guide of questions for discussion of each chapter as well as related reading references. Your state office or your state chairman of Congress publications will be glad to furnish copies of pamphlets, such as *Study Group Techniques*, that will be helpful to you.

ATTENTION, LIBRARY SERVICE CHAIRMEN!

When suggesting material for public or school library shelves, be sure to include *Community Life in a Democracy*, *The Parent-Teacher Organization: Its Origins and Development*, and the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine*.